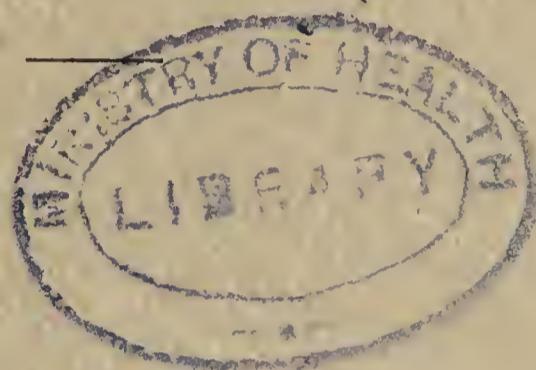


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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For 1955

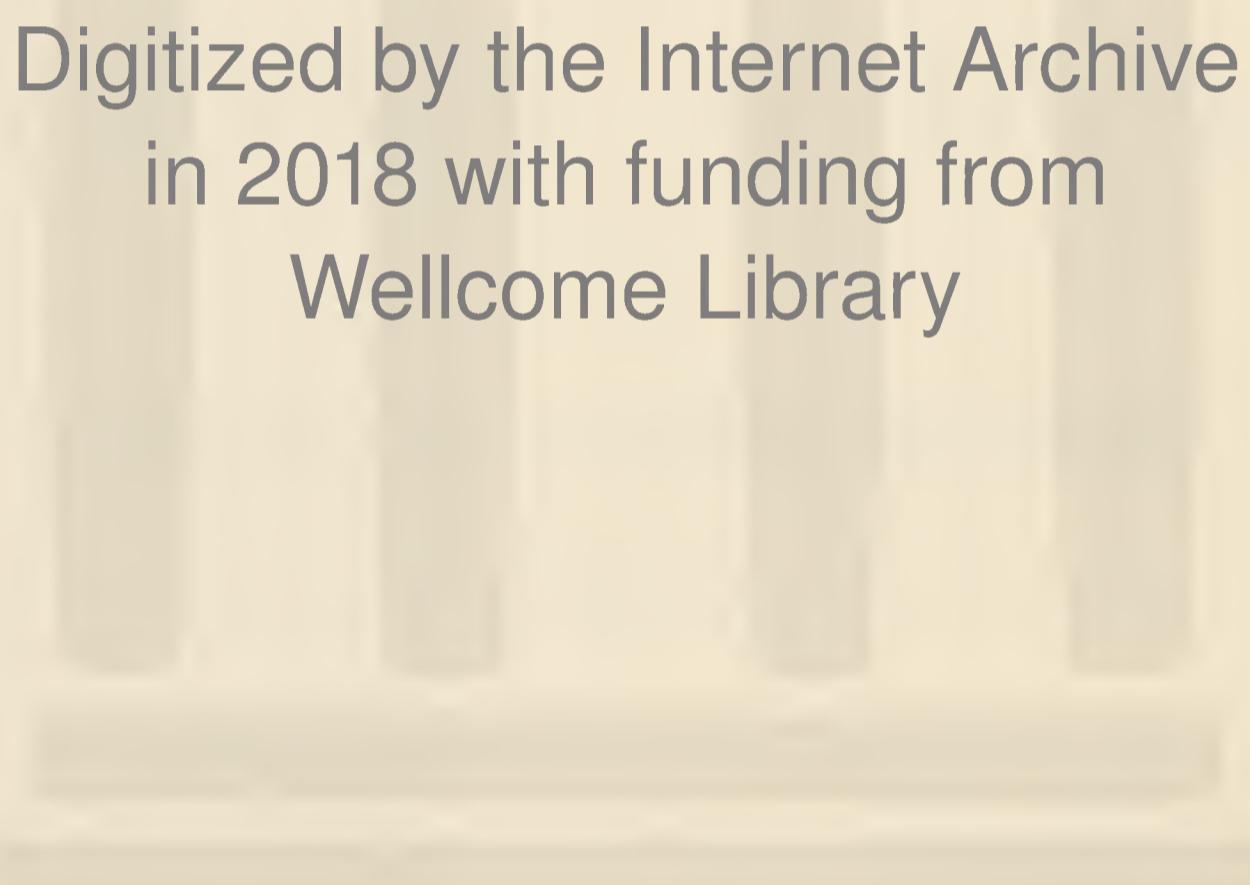
URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL

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**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
of the
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Medical Officer of Health :

S. C. J. FALKMAN

L.R.C.P.(ED.), L.R.C.S.(ED.), L.R.F.P: & S.(GLAS.),
L.M.ROTUNDA(DUBLIN), D.R.C.O.G.(LONDON), D.P.H.(DURHAM).

Sanitary Inspector :

**E. BARNES
M.S.I.A.**

Clerical :

Miss B. M. ROUND

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1955.**

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Tettenhall Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year 1955 and I am grateful to be able to state that we were not presented with serious problems during the reporting year.

The birth rate declined from 18.3 in 1954 to 15.2. The rehousing of families into houses where rents are higher, together with the general increase in the cost of living and family planning, may well be one of the contributing factors in the restriction of births.

The death rate increased from 11.3 in 1954 to 11.7, but is still considerably lower than the rate of 12.5 in the year 1951. Considering the causes of deaths, 25 were due to Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, 12 due to Coronary Disease and Angina, 23 to Other Heart Diseases and 23 to various forms of Carcinoma. The great majority are diseases of the aged and an ageing population will in consequence bring with it a gradual increase in death rates.

Infantile mortality however declined from 32.6 in 1954 to 24.4. All these deaths, 4 in total, occurred under the age of one month. Prematurity and Atelectasis have caused half the numbers of deaths and are two factors constantly met with in the deaths returns of previous years.

With regard to Infectious Diseases, the year has been uneventful. A case of Poliomyelitis was notified and has been mentioned in the appropriate section of the report. The three cases of Food Poisoning were only confined to individuals and cannot be considered as outbreaks. They have been further reported on under the section General Public Health. During the year, 348 cases of Measles were notified. Measles and Whooping Cough appear in alternating waves. Once a considerable proportion of the community has been immunised by contracting the disease, incidence remains low in the following years until the proportion of susceptibles has grown large enough to cause a new heavy incidence.

In the year 1953 there were 210 cases of notified Measles and 25 cases of Whooping Cough. In 1954 we find 4 cases of Measles and 85 cases of Whooping Cough.

Tuberculosis notifications have remained on a fairly constant level and although deaths have declined considerably with new methods of treatment, it remains to be seen whether the actual incidence will keep the same pace. I have mentioned in the Tuberculosis section the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register. For the year 1954 we counted 47 Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary cases. It therefore appears that from the point of Public Health this disease is vastly more important than Poliomyelitis as both notifications and deaths from the latter are small compared with Tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. C. J. FALKMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1956.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The Medical Officer of Health holds office in virtue of a joint appointment by the Sedgley Urban District Council, the Tettenhall Urban District Council and the Staffordshire County Council. Of his time 5/11ths is devoted to the Sedgley Urban District, 2/11ths to the Tettenhall Urban District and 4/11ths to the Staffordshire County Council. As Assistant County Medical Officer he is responsible for School Medical Inspections, School Clinics, Minor Ailment Clinics and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. He further deals with Examinations under the Children and Young Persons Act—1933, Ascertainment of Handicapped Pupils and Medical Examinations of Entrants to the Teaching Profession. In addition to General Public Health Duties for the Urban District the Medical Officer of Health also examines applicants for Super-annuation purposes.

The Sanitary Inspector is in full time appointment with the Local Authority. He is a qualified Meat and Food Inspector and his duties are concerned with Meat Inspection, General Sanitation, Council House Maintenance and the Provisions of the Shops—, Fireguard—, Pet Animals—and Factories Acts. In addition he acts as Rodent Officer and Local Food Officer in Civil Defence.

Public Health and Sanitary matters are brought forward in the Public Health Committee which meets once monthly. Housing and re-housing matters are dealt with in the Housing Committee which also meets monthly.

There are two Health Visitors for the Tettenhall Area under the direction of the County Council. Since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, from the 5th July, 1948, the Health Services are provided by the County Council as the Local Health Authority and the following services have, therefore, become a County Council responsibility:

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
2. Domiciliary Midwifery.
3. Health Visiting.
4. Home Nursing.
5. Vaccination and Immunisation.
6. Ambulance Services.
7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.
8. Domestic Help Service.
9. Duties connected with Lunacy and Mental Health.
10. Provision of Health Centres.

No Health Centres have been built in the Tettenhall Urban District during the year.

School Health Service.

The Medical Inspection of School Children is provided by the County Council who have also established Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopaedic Clinics. The various age groups are examined periodically and from the School Inspections referred to these Clinics or to the General Practitioner if so required.

Cod Liver Oil is provided for cases of under-nutrition or under-development. In cases of Infectious Disease, and if deemed necessary, special steps are taken in conjunction with the School Authorities to exclude scholars who have been in contact with such disease. Protective measures, immunisation and isolation are furthermore under the direction of the Health Department. The School Dental—Ear, Nose and Throat—and Eye Clinics provided in the Urban District are given in a separate table together with sessions for Speech Therapy.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Staffordshire County Council maintains Ante-natal and Child Welfare Centres at the Tettenhall and Tettenhall Wood Clinics.

The Regional Hospital Board provides in addition for Maternity cases in the New Cross and Lichfield Hospitals. Cases wishing to remain at home are delivered by the County Midwives who, if so required, can call for the obstetric assistance of a General Practitioner.

The Staffordshire County Council also provides for the care and treatment of deformed, mentally sub-normal and handicapped children. The cases are selected from School Medical Inspections and Child Welfare Clinics or referred by General Practitioners. Illegitimate, homeless and neglected children are provided for in the Nurseries, Children's Homes and Remand Homes of the County.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Since the passing of this Act the former Public Assistance Services ceased and were taken over by the National Assistance Board under the Ministry of National Insurance. The functions of the Relieving Officers have therefore been discontinued and replaced by the Officers of the National Assistance Board. The National Assistance Board holds no office in the Urban District.

As under the National Health Insurance everyone is now medically insured, the medical supervision and treatment of necessitous cases has become the responsibility of the Medical Practitioner and the Regional Hospital Board. Other classes of necessitous cases, such as homeless, abandoned or neglected individuals are the responsibility of the County Welfare Authorities.

Infectious Diseases.

Hospital treatment for cases suffering from Infectious Disease and in need of such treatment is provided in Moxley Hospital. Hospital admissions and discharges from and to the Tettenhall Urban District are notified to the Tettenhall Health Department.

Tuberculosis.

Institutions are maintained by the Regional Hospital Board for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. No Tuberculosis Dispensary is available in the Tettenhall Urban District. The visiting of Tuberculosis Patients with their care and after care is under the administration of the County Council. Dispensaries are situated at Dudley and Wolverhampton and several Sanatoria are available.

Small-Pox.

Cases of suspected Small-Pox are notified to the Small-Pox Consultant in cases of doubt, who takes further charge of the disposal of the case. Local protective and preventive measures are under the direction of the Health Department.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The County Council does not provide for a Vaccination Centre in Tettenhall, but arrangements can be made with the Medical Practitioner by those who wish themselves or their children vaccinated.

Immunisation against Diphteria and Whooping Cough is undertaken in the Child Welfare and School Clinics while special Immunisation Sessions in Schools provide for an increase in the immunity of the child population.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied by the Area Office in Brierley Hill to the Child Welfare Clinics and to the General Practitioners. Vaccination Lymph can be obtained from the Public Health Laboratory in Stafford.

Ambulances.

The Ambulance Services are operated by the County Council. An ambulance is stationed in Tettenhall from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 8 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturdays. After these times, the service is continued at Brierley Hill.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.**Tettenhall Council Offices, Upper Green.**

Infant Welfare Centre	Thursdays—fortnightly 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Thursdays—fortnightly 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Relaxation Classes	Thursdays—weekly 9-30 and 10-30 a.m. (Two Sessions).
School Clinic	Thursdays—fortnightly 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Dental Clinic	Friday p.m. as and when necessary.
Speech Therapy	Monday p.m. weekly.
Eye Clinic	Wednesday morning 3 or 4 times a year.

Tettenhall Wood - The Institute.

Infant Welfare Centre	Thursdays—fortnightly 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Alternating with Infant Welfare Centre at Tettenhall.
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Times and dates of Clinics are of course liable to alterations from year to year.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1955.

Area: 2,503 Acres.

Population: 10,780 (estimated mid-year, 1955).

Number of inhabited houses: 3,586.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate: £308.

Rateable value: £77,879.

General Rate: 21s. 6d.

Birth Rate: 15.2. England and Wales: 15.0.

Average Birth Rate for ten previous years: 17.6 (Tettenhall).

Death Rate: 12.1. England and Wales: 11.7.

Average Death Rate for ten previous years: 11.9 (Tettenhall).

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 births: 24.4. England and Wales: 24.9. Infantile Death Rate for ten previous years: 31.6 (Tettenhall).

Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis—Rate: 0.093.

Average Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis for ten previous years: 0.22 (Tettenhall).

Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis—Rate: Nil.

Average Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis for ten previous years: 0.055 (Tettenhall).

Death Rate for England and Wales, per million population:

	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	... 195	72	131
Other Tuberculosis	... 17	13	15

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	160	90	70	Birth Rate per 1,000
	Illegitimate	4	3	1	Population: 15.2.
Still Births	Legitimate	2	1	1	Rate (per 1,000 total
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	births): 12.05.
Deaths		130	58	72	Rate (per 1,000 population): 12.1.

BIRTH RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Birth Rate.
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.	
1946	122	17.3	19.1
1947	162	22.6	20.5
1948	136	18.2	17.9
1949	133	17.0	16.7
1950	112	14.3	15.8
1951	130	16.6	15.5
1952	130	16.4	15.3
1953	165	17.4	15.5
1954	184	18.3	15.2
1955	164	15.2	15.0

DEATH RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Death Rate.
	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	
1946	101	14.3	11.5
1947	92	12.8	12.0
1948	76	10.1	10.8
1949	90	11.5	11.7
1950	99	12.6	11.6
1951	136	17.3	12.5
1952	86	10.8	11.3
1953	78	8.2	11.4
1954	117	11.6	11.3
1955	130	12.1	11.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1955.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under one week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under one month.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total Deaths under one year.
Prematurity ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Morbus Cordis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL			England and Wales.
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births	Rate per 1,000 births
1946	122	6	49.1	43
1947	162	5	30.8	41
1948	136	1	7.4	34
1949	133	4	30.0	32
1950	112	5	44.6	29.8
1951	130	4	30.7	29.6
1952	130	6	46.1	27.6
1953	165	2	12.1	26.8
1954	184	6	32.6	25.5
1955	164	4	24.4	24.9

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1955.

Causes of Death :

				M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	2
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	3	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	7	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	7	18
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	7	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	7	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	4	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	1	4
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	3	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	5	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	3	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	4	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
All Causes				<hr/> 58	<hr/> 72
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total				1	3
Legitimate				1	3
Illegitimate				—	—

**AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS CASES (EXCLUDING
TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1955.**

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall Wood.

A visit was paid to the kitchen of the above-mentioned hotel on the 25th of September, 1955. The kitchen has been entirely redecorated and a gas range is now used instead of the old coke range which has been removed from the kitchen. This has been a great improvement as no stoking is required and in consequence less dust will be generated from ashes and coke stoking. Tea and coffee are prepared in a separate place. The peeling of potatoes and the cleaning of vegetables is carried out in a room separate from the room where the washing up of crockery and cutlery takes place.

Glass windows are fitted in these rooms so that pigeons can have no access.

In these premises 60 meals are prepared daily, including breakfast, while special functions require the preparation of some 50 additional meals weekly.

In general there has been a substantial improvement compared with the conditions obtaining in March, 1954, and the kitchen can now be classed as satisfactory for its purpose. A refrigerator is used for cold storage and the store rooms and pantries are ventilated.

During a visit paid on the 23rd of November, it appeared that the passage leading from the dining room on to the kitchen and coffee room had been tiled while the management was considering to have part or whole of the kitchen done in due course. This would bring the kitchen premises fully up to date with regard to modern hygiene principles in the preparation and cooking of food.

Poliomyelitis.

On Thursday, the 10th of November, a case of suspected Poliomyelitis, a boy, aged 10, was brought to my notice at the Sedgley Health Department. This case was seen by me immediately in the afternoon. The family included 4 members; father, mother, a daughter and a son. The daughter, who was of school age, was therefore excluded from school for three weeks. The mother, who was normally engaged in the distribution of meals at the Tettenhall Wood School, was excluded for the same period. The father, a supervisor of bread rounds, did not handle food himself and was therefore allowed to continue in his occupation.

The Tettenhall Wood School was visited next and a list was obtained from the teacher of all immediate class contacts and close playmates of the patient. These were excluded from school for three weeks as advised by the Memorandum on Poliomyelitis of the Ministry of Health (Medical) of July, 1954. Simultaneously, all General Practitioners were circularised in order to be on guard for any manifestations of the disease.

The parents of excluded children were communicated with and advised with regard to preventive measures.

The patient, officially notified on the 14th of November, was again visited by me on Monday and Wednesday, the 14th and 16th of November. It appeared that the boy played football on Tuesday, the 8th of November and came home with a pain in the left lumbar region. The diagnosis was made on Wednesday night by the family doctor. On Wednesday, the 16th of November, the boy was up and about.

Food Poisoning.

In the year 1955, three cases of Food Poisoning were notified. These were sporadic cases with no further spread. In the first case a married couple was involved after eating Cheddar Cheese. The other 3 members of the household suffered no ill-effects. The indisposition lasted for a day. In the second case a woman after eating loin of pork had sickness and diarrhoea from 1-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. Three other members of the household eating the same food did not experience any symptoms.

Tettenhall Council Mortuary.

At the end of the reporting year good progress had been made with the building of the Council Mortuary. The walls were standing and the roofing had been completed. Internal fittings and equipment will follow in 1956 and the Mortuary is then ready for use.

Cases admitted to hospital.

For the year 1955, 11 cases were admitted to hospital for Infectious Diseases as specified below:

1 case Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis — Prestwood Sanatorium,
Stourbridge.

3 cases Pulmonary Tuberculosis — Prestwood Sanatorium,
Stourbridge.

1 case Streptococcal
Infection and Rheumatism—Moxley Isolation Hospital.
1 case Tonsillitis—Moxley Isolation Hospital.

1 case Toxic Erythema—Moxley Isolation Hospital.
2 cases Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Groundslow Hospital.
1 case Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Ehle Viaduct.

1 case Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Edge View, Kinver.
1 case Measles and Broncho-pneumonia—Moxley Isolation Hospital

Hospital.
1 case Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Newcastle Isolation
Hospital

Swabs and Specimens.

Submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service by Local Practitioners and myself:

Nose and Throat	...	...	Nil
Sputa	...	...	17
Faeces	...	...	Nil

Propaganda—Diphtheria Immunisation.

We have continued to take advantage of the facilities offered by the Central Council for Information, with regard to the placing of advertisements in the Local Press in order to stimulate Diphtheria Immunisation. Three advertisements will therefore be inserted in the "Tettenhall Observer" on February 4th, March 3rd and April 7th, 1956.

General Measures.

School Notifications of Infectious Disease are received by the Health Department and carefully studied for any features necessitating prompt action and location.

When desirable, the schools are disinfected while terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out and in all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis, Cancer or other cases of long-standing disease.

Disinfection is attained by the use of Formaldehyde lamps and disinfectant fluid.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No cases were removed under the powers of this section during the year.

Clearance Areas.

In the reporting year the Lower Street Clearance Area was represented on the 28th day of March, 1955. The area was declared by Resolution of the Council on the 25th of April, 1955 and the Council by Resolution confirmed on the 24th of October, 1955, elected to secure the clearance of this area by Compulsory Purchase Order.

Slaughterhouses.

Further inspections have been made of the Slaughterhouses in the Urban District since the coming into operation of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954. The two Slaughterhouses which were in use during the reporting year are on the whole satisfactory. Great improvements have been effected in the Compton Slaughterhouse. The walls of the slaughterhall are now tiled and provision has been made for an adequate hanging room with rails running from the slaughterhall into the hanging room. In both slaughterhouses lairage, ventilation and lighting are satisfactory. Bedding for animals proved adequate whereas proper provision has been made for securing the heads of the animals. Killing is done by the captive bolt pistol.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified during the year was **13** **Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary** as against 14 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary in the year 1954. There has been a transfer to the Tettenhall Urban District of 2 Pulmonary cases from outside districts, who were originally on other registers. Transfers to the district have occurred since the year 1952, as commented on in the report for that year.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 yrs.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 19 yrs.	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 24 yrs.	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 yrs.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 yrs.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 54 yrs.	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 to 64 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 yrs. and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	6	—	1	—	1	—	—

Yearly Figures for the Last Decade.

Year.	New Cases		Deaths.		Death Rate	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1946	3	2	2	1	0.28	0.14
1947	3	—	2	—	0.28	—
1948	4	1	1	—	0.13	—
1949	6	—	2	—	0.25	—
1950	2	—	—	1	—	0.12
1951	2	—	3	—	0.38	—
1952	13	—	1	—	0.13	—
1953	15	1	1	—	0.105	—
1954	14	1	2	—	0.199	—
1955	13	1	1	—	0.093	—

Tuberculosis Rehousing.

Tuberculosis rehousing has proceeded regularly during the reporting year. At the end of the year 1955 there were three Tuberculosis cases on the waiting list.

Tuberculosis Register.

At the end of the year 1955 our Register counted 47 cases of Pulmonary and 5 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action had to be taken under Section 172 of the above-mentioned Act during the year.

WATER

The Tettenhall Urban District is supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

I am indebted to Mr. B. L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E. M.Inst.W.E., Water Engineer and Manager, for the following information :—

1. The water supply in the district has been satisfactory both (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.
2. There has been no evidence of plumbago-solvent action by the water supplied.
3. Subsequent to treatment at the works, where necessary, there has been no known contamination of the supply.
4. The summarised results of Bacteriological examination of water going into distribution is given below :—

No. of Samples taken	Coli-Aerogenes Organisms per 100ml.			
	0	1—2	3—10	Over 10
869	860	6	2	1
Percentage samples ...	99.0	0.7	0.2	0.1

The population supplied from the mains in the District is 10,772. Of the houses in the district, 3,576 obtain water direct from the mains, 7 from standpipes and 3 houses have a well supply. These houses are situated at a considerable distance from the mains and connection to the Wolverhampton supply has proved to be uneconomical. Bacteriological examination has proved more satisfactory this year. The results are given in the table below :—

	Coliform Bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37°C	Faecal Coli
Well No. 1. 16 June, 1955 ...	90	Nil per 100 ml.
Well No. 2. 16 June, 1955 ...	35	Nil per 100 ml.
Well No. 3. 16 June, 1955 ...	8	Nil per 100 ml.

No works have been carried out with regard to these wells during the year. A sample of water taken from the Swimming Bath at Tettenhall College was satisfactory and contained 0.5 parts per million of Free Chlorine.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In the month of July of the previous year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government authorised the Council to proceed with the detailed design of the new Sewage Works and to invite tenders for carrying out the scheme. A new site was suggested off the Bridgnorth Road at Perton. In the year 1956 agreement was reached with the Planning Authority regarding the site. The Council's consultants, Messrs. Willcocks, Raikes and Marshall, had inspected the site and agreed that it was suitable and were preparing a detailed scheme of it. It was anticipated that the preliminary proposals would be available early in the New Year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

There is one tip in the Tettenhall Urban District on the Bridgnorth Road, Compton. It is satisfactorily maintained on the principle of controlled tipping. During the reporting year no other site has been required for further tipping but this necessity may present itself in the near future.

A regular collection of house refuse is maintained. Refuse is collected once in 11 days in the Tettenhall Urban District due to the increase in the number of houses in the district and to shortage of labour.

HOUSING.

Houses completed during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1955 :—

11 Municipal Houses (Tettenhall)

105 Private Houses

114 Houses for Wolverhampton Corporation.

During the year 1955 further progress has been made with the development of the Grange Estate which in total comprises 300 houses. About 1/3 of the houses have been completed. Private Development has been very active. In the reporting year the Parklands, Wightwick Hall and Wood Road Estates were in process of development. The Wood Road Estate has now, with the exception of two houses, been completed. The Wolverhampton Corporation finished the two Castlecroft Estates and is now proceeding with the Finchfield Estate.

Due to the restrictions in Municipal Development imposed by the Government, it became necessary to revise the Housing Application List of the Urban District. The Rehousing of 320 applicants, which was the actual figure at the end of the previous year, became an impossibility. After revision, 198 applicants remained on the register at the end of 1955.

No difficulty has been experienced in the progress of Lower Street Clearance Area. Only one objection was raised and the Official Enquiry in the Clearance Area will take place in the month of February, 1956.

The following table gives the number of applications for Improvement Grants and the total value involved :—

Year Ended 31st December, 1955.

No. of applications dealt with	No. of applications refused	No. of applications withdrawn	No. granted		Total value of work involved	Total value of grants
			Owner/occupiers	Others		
12	Nil	Nil	9	3	£8.000	£3,921

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

HOUSING.

During the year the Public Health Committee acting for the Council has considered official representations in respect of the following properties :—

Action taken :

8 and 10, Oak Hill	Demolition Order made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.
69 and 71, Lower Street	Closing Order under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Section 10, made on House No. 69.
1 and 2, Deepmere Cottages	Undertaking accepted to make into one house.
24, Limes Road	Closing Order under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act), 1953, Section 10.
20 and 22, Finchfield Road	Demolition Order made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.
41, Mount Road	Demolition Order made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.
Perton Grove Cottage	Order completed in 1956.
11, 13, 15, 17, Ormes Lane	Order completed in 1956.

The reconditioning of 62, Henwood Road was completed during the year.

The final completion of orders commenced in 1954 was completed in respect of :—

- 20, 22, 24, Manor Street.
- 2 and 4, Mount Road.
- 26, Manor Street.
- 77 and 79, Bridgnorth Road.

The two houses 14 and 16, High Street in respect of which the owners gave undertakings, were converted into shop premises.

A scheme for the reconditioning of 4 cottages was rescinded to Demolition Orders on the failure of the owner to comply with the original undertakings submitted.

The following houses were demolished :—

- 58, 60, 62, Castlecroft Road.
- 4, 5, 6, 7, Shaw Lane.
- 7, 9, 11, Grove Lane.

Informal recommendations were also made in respect of 7 houses owned by the Council, but no action was taken.

The Official Inspections of the 41 buildings in the Lower Street Clearance Area was made during the year for the Medical Officer of Health to prepare his Official Representation in respect of the area.

Four families were rehoused by the Council during the year from houses where Housing Orders were operative.

26 households still required rehousing at the end of the year from premises where Demolition Orders or Closing Orders were operative.

Notices served for repairs and improvement of houses under the Public Health Act were as follows :—

INFORMAL		STATUTORY	
No. of Houses	No. of Defects	No. of Houses	No. of Defects
38	83	18	33

Statutory Notice was also served during the year in respect of one house occupied by two families, requesting works and improvements to make the premises suitable for occupation by each family, or alternatively reducing the number of households to one. The number of families was eventually reduced to one.

Rent Restrictions—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No applications received.

Moveable Dwellings.

No applications received during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The undermentioned figures give a summary of the various types of sanitary conveniences other than modern type water closets, which were in use at the end of 1955 :—

Waste Water Closets	...	...	23
Pail Closets	...	...	10
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	...	...	50 approximately

During the year 10 waste water closets were converted to modern type W.C.'s.

Schemes for conversion were also suggested to the owners of the houses with Pail Closets, but no improvement was effected. The main difficulty is the high cost of conversion and the low return for investment in rentals.

Informal Notices were given to the owners of 10 houses in Castlecroft Lane requesting them to have the drainage from their houses disconnected from the existing septic tank systems and connection made to the new sewer in the roadway. Five owners have complied with this request.

Connection to the sewer, provision of drainage and modern sanitary conveniences was installed at one cottage in Dippons Lane in lieu of pail closet and soakaway for sink drainage.

FOOD INSPECTION AND HYGIENE.

Meat Inspection.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered and percentages of number affected with diseases :—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	411	Nil	24	2,860	793	Nil
Number inspected	411	Nil	24	2,860	793	Nil
All diseases except Tu- berculosis and Cysticerci.	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	1	Nil
Whole carcases condemned						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	37	Nil	Nil	37	14	Nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysti- cerci	9.00	Nil	8.33	1.29	1.89	Nil
Tuberculosis only	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole carcases condemned						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	41	Nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.89	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.17	Nil
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

180 lbs. of meat was condemned.
1,254 lbs. of offal was condemned.

This was disposed of by incineration or by delivering to the digestor plant at Wolverhampton Abattoir.

During the year a considerable proportion of the duties of meat inspection were carried on out of normal office hours. A total of 234 hours overtime was necessary.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to 1954.

5 Licences were renewed during the year. In the granting of these licences consideration was given to the provisions of the new Slaughter of Animals Act, 1954.

Game Dealer's Licences.

One licence was issued authorising the buying and selling of game.

Food Inspection.

Regular inspection of all foodstuffs is carried out at shops, storeplaces, food preparing premises and on vehicles.

The following articles were condemned during the year :—

24 tins Peaches	8 tins Apricots
7 lbs. Butter (Dutch)	9 tins Corned Beef
1 tin Pork Picnic Shoulder	1 container Frozen Whiting
7 lbs. 6 oz. Cheese	1 packet Scampi
6 Brie Wedge Cheeses	1 tin Ham
2 "Demi-Sel" Cheese Portions	4 tins Pears
4 tins Peas	21 tins Smoked Salmon
14 lbs. Sausage	22 lbs. Pie
3 tins Strawberries	3 tins Pine Slices

Unsound food is disposed of by burning or by burial at the Council's Refuse Tip.

Ice Cream.

This commodity is retailed from 26 shops in the district and also from motor vehicles.

11 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test with the following results :—

10 in Grade I.

1 in Grade II.

Ice Lollies.

22 samples were submitted for examination. The results were as detailed below :—

No. of samples submitted	Plate Count per c.c.				B. Coli. Content	
	Under 10	10 to 100	100 to 1,000	1,000+	Nil in 0.3 c.c	Present in 0.3 c.c
22	6	5	4	7	14	8

Results of the less satisfactory samples were brought to the notice of the manufacturers and the Health Authorities in the areas concerned.

Of the 8 samples with B. Coli. present in 0.3 c.c., none were of the faecal type.

Food Premises.

Within the district there are 93 premises, composed of 56 shops, 18 canteens, 19 licensed premises, from which food is sold, handled, or prepared. A small amount of food is also retailed throughout the district from vehicles.

During the year regular inspections have been carried out for the purpose of maintaining and improving the standards of hygiene in all classes of premises. Seven informal notices were served during the year requesting improvements to premises or utensils.

It is hoped that the new Food and Drugs legislation will strengthen the powers of the Local Authorities to enforce better standards of Food Hygiene. Sound hygiene is now recognised in all food and catering trades as good practice and serves business interests as well as those of public health and so reduces the number of food-borne diseases.

Milk and Dairies.

The major proportion of the milk retailed is brought in from the larger milk treatment plants in adjoining areas. There only remains one local dairy distributing from within the district, and 10 shops retailing bottled milks. The bulk of the milk is heat treated either Pasteurised or Sterilised. A small percentage of raw "Tuberculin Tested" milk is also retailed.

There are 7 dairy farms within the district; only one of these carries on the business of milk retailer. All milk retailed in the area is bottled.

The following table gives a summary of licences issued by the Council to milk distributors in the District.

Designation.	Supplementary Licences.	Dealers' Licences.	Total.
Tuberculin Tested ...	6	2	8
Pasteurised ...	6	2	8
Sterilised ...	6	10	16

The results of samples of milk taken within the district for examination are set out as follows:—

Designation.	No. Samples Submitted.	Phenol Phthalein.		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Methylene Blue	
		Pass.	Fail.	P.	F.	P.	F.	P.	F.
Tuberculin Tested .	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—
T.T. (Past) .	15	10	—	15	—	—	—	15	—
Pasteurised .	17	11	—	17	—	—	—	16	—
Sterilised .	12	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—

Of the above samples, the following were also submitted to biological test for tubercle bacilli :—

Designation.	No.	Negative.	Positive.
Tuberculin Tested ...	11	11	1
Pasteurised ...	2	2	—

All samples of milk which fail to pass the standard tests are notified to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with a view to their checking the methods of production.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information regarding samples of food taken in Tettenhall.

Details of Milk and General Foods taken during 1955.

Article of Food.	Number of Samples.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	49	49	—
General Foods ...	25	25	—

Details are set out as follows :—

Milk.

Milk Pasteurised	...	...	13
Milk Sterilised	...	...	13
Milk T.T. ... ...	...	...	8
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	...	...	11
Milk T.T. Channel Island ...	...	4	—
	Total	49	All genuine.

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	...	25
Number of samples genuine	...	25

Classification of General Foods.

Unsweetened Lemon Juice	Self Raising Flour
Leicestershire Cheese	Ground Ginger
Wensleydale Cheese	Onion, Parsley and Thyme
Caerphilly Cheese	Stuffing
Real Turtle Soup	Pork Sausage
Gnocchi in Tomato Sauce	Dripping
Pate of Smoke Crab	Cream of Tartar
Chandy	Pastry Mix
Ground Almonds	Meat Soup
Almond Marzipan	Malt Vinegar
Garlic Sausage	Lemon Squash
Liver Sausage	Fresh Cream Horn
Whole Orange Drink	Royal Cambridge Sausages

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken by the Council in respect of this problem.

ROUTINE INSPECTION WORK.

Summary of the inspection work carried out during the year is given in the following table :—

Type of Premises inspected			No. of Inspections
Water, Drainage and Sanitary Services	...	...	295
Refuse	...	...	71
Rodent Control	...	...	297
Repairs to Premises	...	...	360
Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises	...	...	257
Infectious Disease	...	...	23
Shops other than Food Premises	...	...	35
Factories	...	...	79
Dairies	...	...	20
Housing Acts	...	...	112
Miscellaneous	...	...	201
TOTAL			1,750

General Information Regarding Notices Served During The Year.

Form of Notice	No. Served	Premises	Defects
Informal :			
(a) General Sanitary Defects	92	141	175
Statutory :			
(a) Defects	21	29	54

Legal proceedings were commenced at the end of the year in respect of Piggeries in the Finchfield area.

In addition, by informal action, 137 dustbins were provided to private houses.

Informal Notices were also served on 41 householders in respect of pollution of the Smestow Brook.

Shops Acts, 1912—1950.

Within the district there are 90 shops. This is an increase of 4 over the previous year, coming under the following headings :—

Grocers, General Stores and Confectioners	...	26
Newsagents and Tobacconists	...	5
Meat Purveyors	...	8
Fish Merchants and Game Dealers	...	2
Fried Fish Shops	...	2
Greengrocers and Florists	...	7
Chemists	...	2
Hairdressers	...	5
Haberdashery	...	5
Off-Licence Premises	...	3
Motor and Cycle Requisites	...	7
Boot Repairers and Leather Goods	...	4
Hardware	...	4
Sub-Post Offices not included in above	...	3
Dry Cleaners	...	1
Animal Food Shops	...	1
Antiques	...	1
Coal Merchants	...	4

There are also 17 licensed premises. This figure includes one residential hotel. There is also one grocer's shop with a wine and spirit licence.

During the year all the shops in the district were visited for the purpose of checking the number of young persons employed and their hours of work. No contraventions of the requirements were found.

Following complaints regarding Sunday Trading, a poster was prepared giving a resume of the requirements of the Act in respect of Sunday Trading and also a list of the exempted articles that may be sold from retail shops. These were personally distributed to the shops affected, the requirements explained, and requests made to the shopkeepers to exhibit the poster so that it could be seen by the public. The action appears to have been effective.

The extension of hours of closing prior to Christmas was notified in the Press in conjunction with neighbouring authorities.

Regular visits to premises were carried out during the year. These are usually combined with other visits for the purposes of the Food and Drugs and Public Health Acts.

No Statutory action was necessary during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

No applications were received during the year for licence to retail pet animals from shop premises.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Reg. 53.

No action was taken during the year.

Rodent Control.

During the year 61 domestic premises, 4 business premises, the sewage farm and refuse tip were treated. The annual treatment of 10% test baiting the sewer manholes was not completed.

It was not practicable to carry out the work of Rodent Control as thoroughly as would be desired, for the major part of the year no Rodent Operative was available and I was only able to attend to major complaints.

Legal proceedings were taken in respect of one farm premises, but these were withdrawn on the day of the court hearing. Clearance of the affected premises was eventually made.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.**

Premises	No. in District	Inspections
Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Workshops)	3	10
Factories in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with Mechanical Power)	14	45
Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	17	24
TOTAL	34	79

There are no records of any out-workers within the District.

Defects Found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	4	4
Insufficient Sanitary Convenience ...	1	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Disinfection of library books was carried out during the year for the Branch Library of the County Council at Tettenhall Wood.

Two houses were disinfected during the year.

Disinfestation treatments were carried out at one house for flea infestation.

Three treatments were carried out for fly infestation on part of the premises at the Viewlands, Wightwick Bank.

Treatment for cockroach infestation was also carried out at one licensed premises.

It was necessary to bring to the notice of the Public Health Committee a number of complaints of major fly infestations received from householders in the Compton area. These were abated after treatment of the Council tip in Bridgnorth Road.
